

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

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TAGS: PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: MAY 16 PRESS CONFERENCE BY FOREIGN MINISTER:
OPENING STATEMENT

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER VUONG VAN BAC HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE
MAY 16 AT WHICH HE SET FORTH THE GVN POLICY OF DETERMINATION TO
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PURSUE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT IN SPITE OF THE

RECENT "PRG" SUSPENSION OF ITS PARTICIPATION IN BOTH THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION AND THE PARIS TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES. THE TEXT OF HIS OPENING STATEMENT FOLLOWS.

THE Q AND A PERIOD IS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. TITLE: OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. VUONG VAN BAC, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM, AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE OF MAY 16, 1974.

3. BEGIN TEXT: AS YOU ALL KNOW, IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, THE COMMUNIST SIDE UNILATERALLY DECIDED TO CEASE ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETINGS OF THE TWO-PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION AND TO SUSPEND INDEFINITELY THE LA-CELLE-SAINT-CLOUD CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES. THESE DECISIONS OF A SABOTAGE NATURE HAVE CREATED A VERY GRAVE SITUATION. IN THE FACE OF THIS SITUATION, I DEEM IT NECESSARY TO MAKE CLEAR THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AS FOLLOWS:

4. I - OUR GOVERNMENT PURSUES A POLICY OF PEACE. IT IS DETERMINED TO STRICTLY RESPECT AND SERIOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF JANUARY 27, 1973 ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIETNAM.

5. IN KEEPING WITH THAT POLICY, THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IS REDADY TO RESUME IMMEDIATELY THE MEETINGS OF THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION IN ORDER TO SPEEDILY ENFORCE A REAL CEASE-FIRE AND PROMPTLY SECURE THE RETURN OF PERSONNEL CAPTURED BEFORE AND AFTER JAN.28,1973. THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IS ALSO READY TO TAKE PART IN THE MEETINGS OF THE LA-CELLE-SAINT-CLOUD CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES AS SOON AS THE COMMUNIST SIDE SHOWS ITS GOODWILL FOR PEACE THROUGH CONCRETE ACTS. THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IS READY TO AFFORD TO THE I.C.C.S. COOPERATION, ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION TO CARRY OUT ITS MISSION.

6. THE COMMUNIST SIDE MUST RESPOND TO THE GOODWILL FOR PEACE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

7. II - ALSO IN LINE WITH THE POLICY OF PEACE OF THE GOVERNMENT
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OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, I HEREBY REITERATE MY PROPOSAL OF JAN.26, 1974 TO MEET THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF NORTH VIETNAM OR ANY OTHER HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL OF THE HANOI ADMINISTRATION, AT ANY TIME FROM THIS MOVEMENT, TO DISCUSS THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH, AS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 15C OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AS WELL AS ALL MEASURES SUSCEPTIBLE OF REDUCING THE TENSION IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

8. THIS PROPOSAL IS STILL FULLY VALID. IT IS MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER, NOW THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE UNILATERALLY PUT AN END TO ALL CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON THE BASIS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

9. III - IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO THE POLICY OF PEACE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IS THE BELLICOSE POLICY OF THE COMMUNIST SIDE.

10. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE DECISIONS TO BOYCOTT THE MEETINGS OF THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION AND TO SUSPEND INDEFINITELY THE LA-CELLE-SAINT-CLOUD CONFERENCE WERE TAKEN BY THE COMMUNIST SIDE AT A TIME WHEN COMMUNIST TROOPS INTENSIFIED THEIR ACTS OF WAR AND OF TERRORISM THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. AT THE SAME TIME, THE LEVEL OF INFILTRATION OF TROOPS AND ARMAMENTS FROM THE NORTH INTO SOUTH VIETNAM HAS INCREASED MANIFOLD. COMMUNIST ARMED FORCES HAVE JUST OPENLY LAUNCHED A "CAMPAIGN OF EMULATION FOR VICTORY", AND THE COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA APPARATUS DOES NOT STOP MAKING CALLS FOR "COMBAT PREPAREDNESS" AND FOR A "CONTINUED OFFENSIVE POSTURE".

11. THUS THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT THE COMMUNIST SIDE IS DELIBERATELY SABOTAGING THE WHOLE PARIS AGREEMENT TO EMBARK ON NEW MILITARY ADVENTURES, THUS REPLACING NEGOTIATIONS BY THE USE OF FORCE.

12. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DEEMS IT NECESSARY TO ALERT WORLD PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THE EXTREMELY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE BELLICOSE AND ADVENTUROUS POLICY OF THE COMMUNIST SIDE. THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARE DEVOTED TO PEACE, BUT ARE ALSO

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DETERMINED TO DEFEND THE FREEDOM OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM AS WELL AS THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. THE COMMUNIST SIDE MUST BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM. SAIGON, MAY 16, 1974. END TEXT.
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